

Memorandum

To: Chairman and Commissioners

Date: March 22, 2005

From: Diane C. Eidam

File No: Reference

ACTION

Ref: DISSOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION'S AIRSPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Issue:

Should the Commission dissolve the Airspace Advisory Committee?

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Commission dissolve the Airspace Advisory Committee.

Background:

In the early and mid-1980's the airspace (real estate) development issues requiring action by the Commission were becoming increasingly more sophisticated. In 1986, the Commission formed the Airspace Advisory Committee (AAC) to serve in an advisory role to the Commission by reviewing proposed airspace (real estate) development leases and joint development. The primary objective of the AAC, as a disinterested third party panel of experts, was to assist in maximizing state income from leasing and managing Caltrans properties. In recent years, the Airspace Advisory Committee also reviewed the Department's excess land activities, marketing plans and telecommunications program.

The original mission of the AAC is limited. The number of large real estate (airspace) and development issues has dwindled in recent years. This is because Caltrans scaled back the type of acceptable development uses (now primarily limited to storage and parking) under freeway structures due to the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, and then "solidified" by the Northridge Earthquake. The Commission will still consider at its meetings those issues that previously were reviewed by the AAC, prior to Commission consideration.

Former Chair Balgenorth asked staff to develop late last year, the concept of an advisory panel with a broad base of expertise that could give the Commission, when needed, expert advice on a range of issues that could come before the Commission. A proposal regarding the advisory panel of experts will be presented at the next Commission meeting.

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